

BOROUGH OF GUILDFORD
Local Education Authority.



SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Ninth Annual Report

OF

The School Medical Officer

ON THE

Medical Inspection and Treatment of Elementary School Children

(FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1916).

GUILDFORD,

February 13th, 1917.

R. W. C. PIERCE, M.D., B.Sc. (LOND.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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Borough of Guildford Local Education Authority.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR 1916.**

To the Education Committee and Town Council of Guildford.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Ninth Annual Report as School Medical Officer.

The work in connection with the Medical Inspection and Treatment of school children has been carried on much as in previous years, the chief difference being the suspension of the surgeon's consultation days for throat, ear and general ailments. The operation days for tonsils and adenoids have, however, been continued, and the cases which formerly attended the consultations have for the most part either attended directly for operation on the recommendation of the Medical Inspector (Dr. Smyth), or have attended my Inspection Clinic on Saturday mornings. Fifty-three cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids from the County area were also operated upon according to the arrangement in force with the County Education Committee. Ten whole days were taken up with these cases, and the children were, in addition, all kept at the Clinic overnight.

The Clinic was also utilised for the treatment of County cases by their own officers on thirty-two other days, viz., four whole days and one half-day for dental cases, 19 half-days for medical cases, and eight half-days for eye cases.

Medical Inspection, 1916.

Number of Children on Books, September, 1916—3,340.

TABLE I.—Number of Children inspected, 1st January, 1916, to 31st December, 1916.

A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

		Entrants.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.	Total.
	Age	4—6	8	12—13	
Boys	...	219	140	187	546
Girls	...	200	135	172	507
		—	—	—	—
Totals		419	275	359	1,053

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “CODE.”

		Intermediate Group other than 8 years.	Special Cases.	Re-examinations.
Boys	...	none	28	138
Girls	...	none	31	201
		—	—	—
Totals			59	339

Total, all cases, 1,451.

Percentage of parents present for Code cases=54.

Number of visits of Medical Inspector to Schools=70.

Number of objections to inspections received from parents=15.

Number of children detained at home on day of inspection=27.

The Medical Inspector, Dr. E. J. Smyth, in submitting the elaborate statistical details of his year's work, has been good enough also to add the following notes :—

NOTES ON MEDICAL INSPECTION, 1916.

The summarised statistics of Medical Inspection during 1916 show a slight increase over the previous year's results in the total number examined, the increase being among those of the three Code-groups, while the number re-examined has been slightly less than in 1915. It will be remembered that the drop in the numbers in 1915 was the result of the intermediate age-period being altered from 7—8 to 8—9, and the numbers examined during the year under review in this group are still considerably below normal. During the next year this cause will be removed.

The number of entrants shows a slight decrease as compared with 1915.

The number of visits paid to schools or departments is one less than in 1915, rather more cases having thus been dealt with on an average at each visit.

The number of objections to inspection on the part of parents is six less than in 1915, but two more were detained at home presumably to avoid examination, than in the previous year.

The number of parents present at the inspection is 6 per cent. less than in 1915, a result no doubt of the increased work for women necessitated by the war.

Defects.—These have been tabulated as usual, and speak for themselves. Apart from statistics, a general impression has been gained during the year that the children are, if anything, better clothed and nourished than in ordinary times, a result probably of the fact that unemployment is practically non-existent throughout the country.

Another general impression gained is that the condition of the teeth among the children of the two older age-groups is noticeably better, and especially among the leavers it is rare to find a septic mouth or one with more than two or three carious teeth. This, of course, is only what one would expect as the result of the dental treatment during previous years.

Treatment.—Tables will be found in the report embodying the results of treatment, and giving the proportion of cases obtaining it to those in which no action is taken.

Re-examination of defective cases still reveals a large number of condition which do not receive treatment, to the detriment of the children's health, and it is to be regretted that apathy or neglect on the part of parents is the cause of many children remaining untreated, while in a certain number a definite refusal to follow out the recommendations given is reported as the reason for the inaction. In some cases the message given is an expression of opinion on the part of the parent or parents to the effect that treatment is regarded as unnecessary by them.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to the School Nurses and to Teachers for valuable assistance in the work of the year.

(Signed)

E. J. SMYTH.

The results of the inspections are shewn in the following Table.

GUILDFORD LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

Summary of Results of Medical Inspection, 1916.

	Numbers Inspected	Attendance Irregular	Clothing and Footgear	Nutrition	Cleanliness	Teeth	Nose and Throat	Glands Enlarged
			Good Fair Poor or Very Poor	Good Fair Poor or Indifferent	Good Fair Defective	Good Fair Defective	Pedicular Nits Culicid Nits	Submaxillary or Cervical, or both
CODE GROUPS	1049	82	872 168 9	823 219 7	786 240 23 138 7	325 532 171 21	113	108
SPECIALS ...	70	7	37 7 —	37 5 2	32 9 3 6 1	10 21 12 1	4	6

	Eyes	Ears	Speech Defects	Mental Condition	Heart Disease	Lung Disease	Other Defects	Directions to modify School Work				
		Disease	Defective Hearing	Backward	Defective	Including Bronchitis	Nervous System	Tuberculosis	Rickets	Deformities	Infectious or Contagious Disease	Miscellaneous
CODE GROUPS	40	118	49	17	1	13	2	3 old, 1 doubtful	2 old	8	3	51
SPECIALS ...	2	9	6	4	1	2	—	1 old	—	—	1	1

Recommendations for Treatment.

The following Table shows the results of the Medical Inspector's recommendations to the parents to have treatment for the main defects found at the inspections :—

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916.

	No. of Defects for which Treatment was necessary			No. of Defects for which no Report is available	No. of Defects Treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not Treated	Percentage of Defects Treated
	From pre-vious Year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing ...	—	6	6	—	6	6	—	—	—	100
Cleanliness—Head ...	—	101	101	8	81	81	—	—	12	80
“ Body ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	100
Nose and Throat ...	12	57	69	1	37	31	3	3	31†	54
External Eye Disease...	—	7	7	—	7	5	2	—	—	100
Ear Disease ...	—	16	16	1	7	7	—	—	8	44
Teeth*	8	86	94	—	42	42	—	—	52	44
Heart ...	—	4	4	—	4	—	2	2	—	100
Lungs ...	—	8	8	1	7	—	7	—	—	87
Vision and Squint ...	11	107	118	7	84	84	—	—	27	71
Miscellaneous ...	—	9	9	1	8	7	1	—	—	90
Total ...	31	403	434	19	285	265	15	5	130	66

* These are cases of extensive dental caries found by the Medical Inspector. The results of inspection by the School Dentist are given in a separate table.

† Of the 31 nose and throat cases six were awaiting treatment at the end of the year.

Dental Inspections.

The scheme of inspection of children's teeth by a School Dentist, which was started in May, 1912, in connection with the establishment of the Clinic, was continued and extended last year. Mr. Charles H. Housden, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), continued to act as Dentist. Children are first examined as soon as possible after they reach the age of six years, and subsequently every year of their school life. At the larger Schools inspections are held twice a year (of two different sets of children), and once a year at the smaller schools, special months being allotted to each School.

The following summary gives particulars of the inspection and results; the long table giving the details of inspections at each School is this year omitted for reasons of economy :—

Number Inspected	...	...	1,414	Private Treatment	...	...	53
Parents present	...	...	402	Refusals of Treatment	...	...	345
Number requiring Treatment	...	...	906	Treatment postponed	...	...	76
Treated at Clinic	...	...	390	Objections to Inspection	...	...	5

After deducting 42 children who were inspected on December 13th, and therefore had not been followed up before the end of the year, the percentage of those requiring treatment, which were treated at the Clinic, works out at 45 per cent. This percentage would have been higher if there had been time to treat all the children inspected in November.

The following shows percentage figures, and also those for the previous three and a half years for comparison :—

	1912 (Half-Year)	1913	1914	1915	1916
Percentage of Parents present at					
Inspections ...	55	51	37	33	28
„ of Inspected children					
requiring treatment	80	77	82	71	64
„ Treated at Clinic ...	41	38	37	43	45
„ Private treatment ...	18	10	5	7	6
„ Refusals of treatment	38	44	47	45	40

There is a gratifying diminution in the number of children requiring treatment, which confirms the general impression gained by Dr. Smyth as mentioned in his report. There is also a small increase in the numbers treated at the Clinic, and a diminution in the number of refusals of treatment.

The diminishing percentage of parents present at the inspections is due to the fact that a considerable proportion are now re-inspections of older children, at which the parents do not think it so necessary to attend.

Twenty-one visits of inspection to the Schools were paid by the Dentist (in two instances two Schools were visited on the same afternoon), and the average number of children inspected in a School session of two hours was 74, as against 56 in the previous year.

TREATMENT.

Treatment has been carried out as usual at the Clinic in Stoke Road.

Mrs. Swinburne and Mrs. Hartree have continued to render most valuable assistance, by attending on treatment days to receive the parents, keep the Registers and to do other necessary clerical work.

Cases at Clinic.

Treatment Clinic :

			Half-days.	Cases.	Visits.
Eyes	...	...	20	87	211
Teeth	...	...	53	557	651
Throat, Ears, etc.			5	28	28
Inspection Clinic :			40	241	417
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	118	913	1,307

The corresponding number of cases for 1915 were as follows :—Eyes 87, Teeth 567, Throat, etc., 33, Inspection Clinic 220.

Eye Cases.

These are seen once a fortnight on Friday afternoons by Dr. E. J. Smyth, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the County Hospital.

Of the 87 cases treated, 77 had errors of refraction, and 10 had external eye disease. Glasses were ordered in 54 instances.

Dr. Smyth systematically re-examines all refraction cases at the Schools once a year, as a result of which 39 children attended at the Clinic last year for re-testing, and 24 of these were found to require change of glasses.

Dental Cases.

These were treated on Tuesday afternoons by Mr. C. H. Housden, L.D.S., R.C.S., with Dr. Parker as anæsthetist. The great majority of those treated were children who had been selected at the inspections previously held at the Schools by the Dentist. Some children at other ages recommended by Dr. Smyth or by myself from the Inspection Clinic as in urgent need of treatment are also attended to.

The Clinic was open for Dental treatment on 53 afternoons, and altogether 557 children were treated, who paid between them 651 visits. Of the above

341	required	extractions	with	gas.
43	„	„	„	and fillings.
167	„	„	without	gas, and fillings.
6	came	for	consultation	only.

The average number present on the 25 “ gas ” days was 15, and on the 28 “ filling ” days 8.

The number treated in the previous year was 567, and the number of visits paid by the children 725.

The usual practice is to give gas where more than two teeth have to be extracted.

Nursing assistance on “ gas ” days was voluntarily and efficiently given by the Guildford Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Association.

Throat, Ear, etc., Cases.

The treatment of these cases by the Clinic Surgeon was confined to operations for removal of tonsils and adenoids. The Clinic was open for this purpose on five occasions, when 28 children were operated upon. Dr. Lankester officiated during the first half and Dr. Milligan during the second half of the year. Dr. Parker acting as anæsthetist.

Several cases of discharging ears were seen by me at the Inspection Clinic and treated with syringing, etc., by the nurses.

Very efficient nursing assistance was again given voluntarily by members of the Guildford Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Association, including the care of some of the children overnight.

The operation cases are systematically examined at the Schools by Dr. Smyth after an interval of about six months, and last year greater or less improvement in the child's symptoms was found in every instance.

Inspection Clinic.

The Inspection Clinic was open as usual every Saturday morning during the School terms under my own charge; the School Nurses also attending.

Total number of cases seen	...	...	241
Total number of visits	...	...	417

Of the above 79 were referred by the Attendance Officer, 41 by the Head Teachers, 20 by the Medical Inspector, 81 by the School Nurses, and 20 were brought by the parents on their own initiative..

Number of children with ailments treated	...	...	175
„ „ referred to other departments	...	...	27
„ infectious disease contacts	...	...	7
„ examined with symptoms of infectious disease	...	...	24
„ infectious disease convalescents	...	...	5
„ as to fitness for School	...	...	3
			<hr/> 241. <hr/>

Classification of ailments :—

Impetigo	...	...	...	...	27
Ringworm (scalp 11, skin 21)	...	...	...	...	32
Eczema, Psoriasis, etc.	...	...	...	...	14
Pediculosis	...	...	...	...	12
Scabies	...	...	...	...	9
Debility	...	...	...	...	23
Ear Discharge and Deafness	...	...	...	...	15
Enlarged Glands	...	...	...	...	6
Suspected Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	33

The 21 cases of skin ringworm were prescribed for, and the treatment carried out by the parents at home.

Of the 11 cases of ringworm of the scalp two were treated with X-rays at the County Hospital under the arrangement in force, four were treated with applications at the Clinic, and five were prescribed for and treated at home.

There were no cases of ringworm under treatment at the end of the year.

Work of the School Nurses.

The following visits to homes were made during the year :—

Visits in connection with the notification of Births Act					
(March to December)	...	...	...	...	1,370
Following up Visits to Children in need of treatment...	...	...	...	...	2,016
Visits to cases of Measles	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	53
„ „ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	90
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	195

The Nurses also treated or inspected 236 children (who between them paid 522 visits) at the Clinic during the year. The majority came for applications for ringworm, fomentations for septic fingers, syringing of ears, bathing of eyes, etc.

A Health Visitor was appointed by the Public Health Committee at the beginning of the year to carry out work under the Notification of Births Act and the Measles and Tuberculosis Orders. By arrangement with the Education Committee it was decided to divide the whole of the work in the Borough, including the School work, between the two nurses, allotting to each approximately one half of the Borough, so as to obviate dual visiting and to economise time in travelling. A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was opened at the Clinic premises in March, a doctor attending on alternate Thursdays, whilst on the other Thursdays weighings of the babies take place, and talks to mothers are given by the Nurses or other competent ladies. Unfortunately, there were two changes in the appointment during the year, so that the work generally suffered to some extent.

The Nurses have also continued the systematic inspection at the Schools of children's heads for verminous conditions which was commenced in the autumn of 1913.

The following is a summary of the conditions found :—

Average attendance, 3,010.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentage.
Clean ...	772	5,341	6,113	91·5
Nits only ...	20	454	474	7·1
Pediculi ...	8	85	93	1·4
	—	—	—	—
	800	5,880	6,680	100·0

Numbers of notices served :—

First notice for nits and vermin	...	...	85
Second notice	„	„	25
First notice for nits only (worst cases)	...	...	286

Ten children were excluded twice; three children were excluded three times. Three children were found with vermin on body, and four with filthy clothing.

The Nurses' inspections are mainly confined to the children's heads; their bodies and underclothing only being examined in suspected cases.

Of the 567 cases of defective cleanliness, 429, or 76 per cent., showed improvement at the re-inspection at the end of a week, 113, or 20 per cent., showed no improvement, and 25 were absent.

The parents of seven children (four families) were prosecuted under the Attendance Byelaws for non-attendance owing to uncleanliness, and fines from 2s. 6d. to 15s. were inflicted.

Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

Notifications of the following cases were received from the Head Teachers during the year :—

	Measles.	German Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox.	Mumps.	Ring-worm.	Scabies.
First Term	3	0	24	45	3	2	0
Second „	3	3	44	43	4	4	1
Third „	0	1	11	4	1	1	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	4	79	92	8	7	2

The above figures by no means represent the actual number of non-notifiable diseases that occurred, as some of the Head Teachers often fail to notify cases.

It will be seen that the only diseases at all prevalent were Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox. St. Nicolas Infants' School was closed from June 2nd to June 9th on account of the prevalence of both diseases, and Stoughton Infants' School from July 24th to August 2nd (commencement of summer holidays) on account of Whooping Cough.

Elementary Education (Blind & Deaf Children) Act, 1893.

Two children were maintained in special institutions at the expense of the Authority, viz. :—One girl at the Brighton Deaf and Dumb Institution, and one boy at the Royal School for the Deaf and Dumb, Margate.

Satisfactory reports as to their progress were received during the year.

Sanitary Condition of Schools.

The usual sanitary survey of the Schools was made by the Surveyor in February, but only the more urgent repairs were recommended. These were effected during the summer vacation.

The hours of the afternoon session were again changed to 1.30 to 3.30 during the winter months.

In conclusion, I have to express my indebtedness to Dr. Smyth and also to Nurse Wilson for their general assistance, and for considerable help in the statistical portion of this Report.

Several detailed tables and much descriptive matter have been omitted from the Report this year for economical reasons.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. C. PIERCE,

School Medical Officer.

DENE LODGE,

GUILDFORD,

13th February, 1917.

